

# Shalom aleichem

[Heb 12:1 NASB] Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which **so easily entangles** (**euperístatos, (a competitor) thwarting a racer**) in every direction:) us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

We have all these witnesses. The Law and the Prophets testify

- **Cloud of Witnesses:** Abel, Enoch, Noah, Sarah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses and his parents, Red Sea

John 5:39 You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me;

Luke 24:27 Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

Luke 24:44 Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."

- OT Witness: **The Prophets**
- [Isa 53:1 NASB] Who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, And like a root out of parched ground; He has no [stately] form or majesty That we should look upon Him, Nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him.
- [Isa 53:3 NASB] He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being [fell] upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.

- [Isa 53:7 NASB] He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth.
- [Zec 9:9 KJV] Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he [is] just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.
- **Psalm 22**
- [Zec 11:12-13 NASB] I said to them, "If it is good in your sight, give [me] my wages; but if not, never mind!" So they weighed out thirty [shekels] of silver as my wages. Then the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter, [that] magnificent price at which I was valued by them." So I took the thirty [shekels] of silver and threw them to the potter in the house of the LORD.
- [Zec 13:6 KJV] And [one] shall say unto him, What [are] these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, [Those] with which I was wounded [in] the house of my friends.

### 12:1 let us also lay aside every encumbrance

What holds you back? Romans 13:11-12 Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and **put on the armor of light**.

What disqualifies us from running the race?

[1Co 9:24 NASB] Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but [only] one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win.

[1Co 9:25-27 NASB] Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then [do it] to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

12:1 the sin which **so easily entangles** (*euperístatos*, (a competitor) thwarting a **racer**) in every direction): us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

- Sin is a weight that keeps you from running the race.
- You can't run your race on a treadmill. Sir William Cubitt 1817.

[Heb 12:2 NASB] Fixing (ἀποφάω: turn away from all others) our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

We have joy awaiting us. When running a race we need to have our focus on the finish line.

**[Heb 12:3 NASB] For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart (ψυχή soul).**

[Eph 6:10 NASB] Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

[Eph 6:12 NASB] For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual [forces] of wickedness in the heavenly [places.]

[Eph 6:13 NASB] Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

[Eph 6:14 NASB] Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,

[Eph 6:15-17 NASB] and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil [one.] And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

We have witnesses who have run before us. We have Scriptural testimony of the truth of Jesus. We can endure the race if we keep our focus on Jesus.